TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2001 LB 243

concept that if we're going to subsidize economic development projects, that they have a responsibility to be projects that pay a fair wage, among other concerns. But I guess the figures that you've inserted in this approach...how does this compare with what other efforts are being made in legislation here? And I was going to ask Senator Wickersham, but he isn't here right now. Like, in the Revenue Committee and other efforts, how does this compare with those standards, if you know?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I don't know everything that the Revenue Committee has, but you and I both know that the Job Quality...the Quality Jobs Act is the big item that they've been working on this year. And in the Quality Jobs Act, they have actually put in provisions...there are at least... I don't know what its form is at the moment, but I know that the last time I looked at it, there were two levels of subsidies involving certain criteria, and the lowest level, the lowest of subsidy required that the wages, all wages match the average...not the average wage, but all wages be at least the average Nebraska wage. And of course, the average Nebraska wage is way above what we're calling the livable wage, or a living wage. then, in that bill, in that same bill, for the higher incentive level, the wage has to be, I think it was 120 percent of the average Nebraska wage, if I'm remembering correctly, and I think I am.

SENATOR BROMM: What is ...

SENATOR BEUTLER: So . . .

SENATOR BROMM: ...what is the average Nebraska wage? Do you know?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I don't want to quote offhand, because I'm not sure I'm remembering accurately.

SENATOR BROMM: I was...

SENATOR BEUTLER: But ...

SENATOR BROMM: ... I was looking... I guess the thrust of my